While I have known that integrating technology into the classroom is essential. This class magnified the importance of technology integration. I had always thought I was doing a decent job of incorporating technology into my classroom. I use my Smartboard daily and my clicker system often. My students can navigate to certain things on the computer without my assistance. After, completing the technology project, thematic unit, and a few other assignments for this class I realized that there were so many other ways I could incorporate technology into my classroom.

Storybird was a huge eye opener! This will be used more than once in my classroom this year. Over the years, I have realized that getting students to write a story is very difficult. I pulled all my tricks out of the bag to get them to write stories but for some reason only a few will be able to complete the task receiving a level 3. I can already see how storybird will be wonderful for all my students especially those struggling to write using paper and pencil. Storybird will allow them to use the computer to write their story but it also gives them many graphics to choose from to illustrate their story. Illustrations are very important to first grade students when writing.

After creating and reviewing my technology project along with the lesson plan I feel that my Penguin Unit is going to show great improvement this year. I truly believe that my students will be more excited about learning and especially about the writing portion of this lesson. The writing portion of the lesson will allow students to express themselves without struggling to transfer the information to paper. Since the writing portion of the lesson will be created on the computer with storybird; I truly feel the students will work hard to complete the lesson and do more than just the minimum because not only will their story be “published” but they will also be able to share their storybird on the smartboard with the class.

While I have worked on and created thematic units before I had not incorporated technology into them other than my smartboard. When working on my thematic unit in this class I had the opportunity to incorporate technology into the lesson not only by using my smartboard but also by creating a video that will be used for instructional purposes. My Routines and Data Unit is essential at the beginning of every single school year to create a structured routine within the classroom. However, I feel that this school year when my class begins Routines and Data it will be much more successful as well as much involved for my students. I enjoyed making the video on movie maker as well. I was able to use pictures of my classroom and my students to create the video. I feel that this will allow my students to feel more connected to the classroom and also realize that they too will be doing similar activities.

One other assignment that I enjoyed working on was the technology grant. I will admit that I was terrified of doing this assignment. I had not ever taken on such a project however with the resources provided I feel I was able to successfully complete this assignment and learn new information that I would not have known before. I also would not have known that such amazing technology grants were available to our schools. These technology grants will benefit our students immensely.